

## BOOK REVIEW

RICHARD L. DUBLE. 2001. **Turfgrasses: Their Management and Use in the Southern Zone, Second Edition.** (ISBN 1-58544-161-9, pbk.) Texas A&M University Press. John H. Lindsey Building, Lewis Street, 4354 TAMU, College Station, TX 77843-4354. (Orders: [www.tamu.edu/upress](http://www.tamu.edu/upress), 979-458-3982, 800-826-8911, 979-847-8752 fax). \$27.95, 336 pp, 51 color photos, 15b/w photos, 68 line drawings, 7" × 9".

Although monotypic plantings of an exotic grass species might evoke fear or loathing in those concerned with biodiversity, few would dispute the impact turfgrasses have on our economy or our quality of life. Golf courses, municipal parks, residential landscapes and interstate roadways are all dependent in some form on turfgrass culture and management. *Turfgrasses* capitalizes on their importance and seeks to provide comprehensive information on how to grow and maintain lawns.

This volume comprises a revision of first edition in 1989. Chapters include the contributions of turfgrasses, the turfgrass plant, growth and development of turfgrasses, southern turfgrasses, specification for turfgrass establishment, cultural practices, weed control in turf, turfgrass diseases, managing turfgrass insects and turfgrass maintenance programs. The second chapter gives a brief, yet clear introduction to grass morphology. In following chapter, Duble elaborates on the growth and development of turfgrasses, covering such topics as seed germination, dormancy and vigor, leaf growth and thatch, and cultural practices affecting root growth. Chapter four is devoted exclusively to southern turfgrasses, dividing them into warm-season and cool-season. For each group of grasses (example: Bermudagrass), he includes information on the origin and distribution of species, a species description, adaptation and uses, horticultural varieties, propagation, management and pest problems. Within the chapter on cultural practices, the author includes obvious topics like mowing, water management and fertilization. A handy worksheet for water budgeting guides the reader in estimating total cost for irrigation. Special cultural practices address vertical mowing, aerification, spiking and topdressing, to name a few. The section on weed control identifies undesirable plants in turf with both descriptions and line drawings and suggests herbicides for control. After reading this book, one should be able to identify and treat turf diseases and insects since the chapters pertaining to these topics seem comprehensive. The final chapter has the commercial turf manager in mind with topics like putting greens and playing fields.

Overall, this is a well-written and thorough tome. I have but a few quibbles. First, many of the references cited seem a bit dated. I noticed only a handful of the citations were published after 1990 with the majority published before 1980. Thus, it seems that some of the material presented herein is outdated. Turfgrass is big business and big money and the demand for current information should be reflected with research. While the both the black and white and color photos are clear and representative, the line drawings of turfgrass species and turf weeds are of poor quality. The drawing of a staminate Buffalograss (p. 72), for instance, could easily be mistaken for *Bouteloua* and Kentucky bluegrass (p.84) looks more like Johnsongrass. It is likely that the target audience would not be familiar with all the species discussed in this book. A clear illustration could be a strong confirmation tool for identification.

This book is appropriately written with the commercial turfgrass manager in mind. Those working in this field should not be without a copy of this book.—Amy Trauth Nare, *Botanical Research Institute of Texas, Fort Worth, TX, 76102-4060, U.S.A., amy\_trauth@yahoo.com*